



Business Services
Organisation

Directorate of Legal Services

— PRACTITIONERS IN LAW TO THE
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SECTOR —

2 Franklin Street, Belfast, BT2 8DQ
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Your Ref:
HW-0007-12

Our Ref:
HYP B04/2

Date:
20th June 2012

Ms H Win
Solicitor to the Inquiry
Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths
Arthur House
41 Arthur Street
Belfast
BT1 4GB



Dear Madam

RE: INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA RELATED DEATHS- Claire Roberts

I refer to the above matter and to your letter dated 1st June 2012, reference as quoted above. I reply, using the same numbering as adopted therein, as follows:-

1. It is the Trust's understanding that Claire's case was not discussed at any Paediatric Mortality/Morbidity Meetings. It is Dr Herron's belief "that the paperwork suggests that Claire's case was to be discussed at one of these NSU meetings". Dr Herron has advised that NSU meetings took place on a Tuesday morning but that no formal record has ever been kept of attendance at these meetings. He has further advised that he has no personal or departmental record to demonstrate, with certainty, whether Claire's case was discussed at this meeting or at a Paediatric Mortality Meeting. It is the Trust's understanding that these meetings were not minuted, therefore, there are no further documents available in relation to Claire's case.
2. Dr Herron is now responsible for reporting all neuropathology and adult Post Mortems in the Trust. He has implemented this policy in the last five years.
3. There is no copy of the signed final report in the Neuropathology Department file. Dr Herron has advised that he does not know to whom it was sent.
4. It is the Trust's understanding that the 'Provisional Anatomical Summary'

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which has already been provided to the Inquiry is indeed a copy of the original in its entirety.

5. It is the Trust's understanding that the Inquiry has already been provided with copies of all documents held by the Neuropathology Department.
6. All casenotes relating to Claire are contained within the RBHSC casenotes already in the Inquiry's possession.
7. I am instructed that the relevant dates are 28th December 2007, 19th November 2008 and 20th November 2008.
8. I am instructed to provide you with a copy of Dr Herron's letter to the Coroner dated 3rd February 2005, in response to this question.
9. The Inventory has already been provided to the Inquiry as part of the Neuropathology Department notes.
10. The Autopsy request form was previously provided as part of the Neuropathology Dept notes
11. Please refer to our letter dated 2nd April 2012 in response to your letter dated BPC-0168-12 dated 13th March 2012.

This completes my client's response to your aforementioned letter.

Yours faithfully



Angela Crawford
Solicitor

Telephone No: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

The **ROYAL**
HOSPITALS

N.I. Regional Neuropathology Service
Institute of Pathology
Royal Group of Hospitals Trust
Grosvenor Road
Belfast BT12 6BA

Tel: [REDACTED] Ext: [REDACTED]
Tel: [REDACTED] (direct line)
Fax: [REDACTED]

3rd February 2005

Mr J L Leckey LL.M.
HM Coroner for Greater Belfast
Coroner's Office
Courthouse
Old Town Hall Building
80 Victoria Street
Belfast BT1 3GL

Dear John

Re: Claire Roberts, Deceased – NPPM 114/96

Thank you for your correspondence.

I have reviewed the pathological findings in the case. It seems that Mr Walby has referred the case to you because there is indication that hyponatraemia may have played a part in the death. The cerebral oedema (brain swelling) that was present may have many causes, one of which is hyponatraemia. The autopsy did not exclude this as a cause of the brain swelling nor did it show any specific findings (structural changes) to make the diagnosis of hyponatraemia.

I am unclear from the letter as to whether it is thought that the hyponatraemia was a primary factor in this case, ie caused the brain swelling, or was secondary to the brain swelling.

I understand that this case has gone for expert review and I would be happy to be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely



Brian Herron
Consultant Neuropathologist